

Deanna Thurman Ongwela
Application No. 09/665,608

Examiner: Justine Yu
Group Art Unit 3764

#14/D
C/H 5/14/03

MASSAGE AND TACTILE STIMULATION DEVICE

This amendment is responsive to the office action of 11/20/2002

Response to Claim Objections

Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5, 6, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph, but applicant has amended claims to overcome rejection as outlined. Claim 8 describes a massage and tactile stimulation device with projections on the pad of digits and back of knuckles (phalanges) without friction areas in the palm region, unlike Claim 1 which describes a massage and tactile stimulation device with friction areas in the palm region. Claim 8 has been cancelled in light of Examiner citing court decision in which the court held that "omission of an element and its function is obvious if the function of the element is not desired. Ex parte Wu, 10 USPQ 2031 (Bd. Pat. App. & inter.1989)." In addition, claim 9 has been added to further clarify and differentiate the present invention from the prior art of Lohati and Hamada.

Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5, 6, and 8-10 and claims 1-3, 5, 6, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) but applicant has amended claims to overcome rejection as outlined.

As a *pro se* applicant I am not educated in the technical terminology, sentence punctuation, and form as one well versed in the process of patenting. I have been a physical therapist for over seven and one half years. I received my Bachelors of Science in Health Science with a concentration in Human Anatomy and Physiology. I then received my Masters of Science in Physical Therapy. Australian physical therapists were an integral part of my clinical training and education. Manual ("hands on") therapy was